

REMARKS

This request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is in response to the final Office Action mailed April 21, 2003.

Claims 1-28 were in the application and have been rejected by the Examiner.

Applicant has added claim 29 to better claim the invention.

The Applicant respectfully traverses all objections. At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-8, 16-18, 20-22 and 25 under 35 USC §102B as being anticipated by Williams (United States Patent No. 6,108,686).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to better claim the invention by stating that the record retrieval program directly searches the local and remote databases. Specifically, the amended claim 1 states that the record retrieval program **directly searches** the local and remote information sources. Support for this amendment is located, for example, on page 17, lines 12-13, which states that "the subprogram queries the local and remote databases and compares the results." The "subprogram" is the module that incorporates the invention as described on, for example, page 17, lines 7-11.

Amended claim 1 reads, in part, as follows:

searching, using the record retrieval program, directly the local and remote information sources for a second information associated with the first information.

The Examiner states that Williams teaches this element in the abstract, column 3, lines 1-67, column 4, lines 48-67, column 6, lines 1-67, column 7, lines 40-46, column 7, lines 65-67 and column 8, lines 1-19. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Williams does teach a system that utilizes local and remote databases; however, Williams does not search the local and remote databases using the record retrieval program for a second information associated with the first information as claimed.

Instead, Williams teaches an agent that scans repeatedly, with or without user intervention, the remote databases and stores any retrieved information in the local database, using only pre-defined search rules. Additionally, the search agent does not display the retrieved information to the user. For example, in Williams, column 5, lines 49-61, states that "the search agent may access the remote databases at regular, predefined intervals or at specified days or times." Thus, in the Williams system, the remote databases are searched at specified times by the search agent. Additionally, it is the search agent that performs the search of the remote database and not the record retrieval program. Williams does not describe the agent searching the local database. Williams only shows data flowing from the search agent to the local database and does not contemplate the search agent searching the local database. See Figs. 3-5.

The claimed invention includes a record retrieval program that (1) allows a user to enter first information into search fields (claim 1, lines 7-8), (2) searches the local and remote information sources (claim 1, lines 11-12) and (3) displays the retrieved second information (claim 1, lines 13-15).

This split between the search agent and the content viewer, as well as the fact that the content viewer only searches the local database, whereas the search agent only searches the remote database, is central to the purpose of Williams' invention. Specifically, Williams' invention is to provide "an information access technology which pro-

vides the user with improved speed of access and improved organization of the delivered information.” See column 2, lines 3-5. William’s invention is directed to improving the “the speed at which remotely stored information can be delivered to a user.” See column 1, lines 32-35. Williams’ teachings solve this stated problem by describing a system that enables multiple users to obtain information stored on a network where “[i]nformation relating to only the predefined subject is retrieved from a database on the network based on each set of search criteria, and the retrieved information is stored in a local database accessible to local users.” See column 2, lines 12-15. Williams does not contemplate that the content viewer (i.e., the user) obtains information anywhere but from the local copy (which is a copy of the remote) database.

Williams’ search agent performs searches of the remote databases, but not of the local database. See, for example, column 8, lines 1-5, which states that the “search agent [is] configured to retrieve information [from] a database on the network based on a set of search rules and to store the retrieved information in a local database.”

The content viewer in Williams is the only module that searches the local database. However, the content viewer is not interconnected with the remote database. In the Williams system, search rules are utilized by the agent in searching the remote databases, but these rules are entered via the control panel. Thus Williams requires a control panel for entering search rules, an agent for searching the remote database and a content viewer for searching the local database and displaying the found information. Furthermore, if information is not already stored in the local database, the user of the Williams system cannot access the desired information without first opening the control panel, starting a

search, having the search agent retrieve the data from the remote database and finally viewing the retrieved data using the content viewer.

In the Williams system, the search agent initiates the search in the remote database. The data displayed to the user always comes from the local database. See Figs. 3-5. Thus, under the Williams system, the content viewer, which displays the retrieved data to the user, only obtains data from the local database. Williams does retrieve data from remote databases, but only by the search agent and only to store the data in a local database. See, for example, column 2, lines 12-15, which states “[i]nformation relating to only the predefined subject is retrieved from a database on the network based on each set of search criteria, **and the retrieved information is stored in a local database** accessible to the local users.” (emphasis added). However, Applicant’s invention, as claimed, does not store the retrieved information in the first information source. Instead, Applicant’s claimed invention retrieves the second information from the first **and** second information sources and can display the information retrieved from either source. See Claim 1, lines 11-12.

Thus, Williams does not teach a system that searches both the local and remote information sources in response to entered first information. Instead, Williams teaches a system that routinely scans the remote database and copies data to the local database. The Williams content viewer does search the local database in response to the set of search rules, but does not search the remote database.

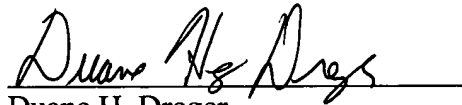
Williams does not teach all of the elements of the claimed invention. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Claims 2-28 depend from claim 1 and are therefore

believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable claim.
Claim 29 includes the limitations of both claims 1 and 2 and is believed to be allowable
for the reasons set forth with respect to claim 1.

All claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully urges the issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this application.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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